

OCEANSIDE SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Number 9, Jan. 2010

OCEANSIDE SHUTTERBUG NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the newsletter of the Oceanside Photographers Club (OP). The OP meets on the first Monday of every month in the QB Baptist Church next to the train station at 7:00 pm. Sometimes there is a computer program demonstration by a club member at 6:30 pm with the meeting proper following at 7:00 pm.

The aim of the club is to promote learning, sharing and the enjoyment of photography in a convivial atmosphere.

Membership is \$30 per person per year (May to Apr. incl.) and is open to anyone interested in photography. Guests are allowed to come to no more than two meetings for free after which they must pay a membership fee in order to continue attending.

Election of officers is held at the annual general meeting on the first Monday of May each year.

EXECUTIVE (May 2009 – May 2010)

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer Ed Mosier
- Secretary Susan Mohan
- Director - Exhibition Coordinator ... Lynn Bieber-Weir
- Director - Education Portfolio
- Director - Newsletter editor..... Robin Pearson



This is when you need to be ready with "Burst Mode". - editor

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

photographs should be provocative and not tell you what you already know. It takes no great powers or magic to reproduce somebody's face in a photograph. The magic is in seeing people in new ways."

Duane Michals

Cover photo - "ZIPPIN' ALONG" - by RANDY HALL - category MOTION

Thanks to **Susan Mohan** for contributing the two newspaper articles on this page.

UCORDER IRDC250

The IRDC250 Camcorder / Webcam combo allows you the convenience of Wearable Video Recording plus the benefit of a Webcam. The 3.5" Wearable Video Camera / Recorder can easily be attached to your clothing and is ideal for recording different aspects of your life, hands-free! When connected to a computer, the uCorder can be set to function as a Webcam for use in popular chat programs and it includes a clip-on stand. The unique compact design allows you wear the uCorder 3 different ways:

- 1) clip it in your shirt pocket,
- 2) attach it to clothing with a pin accessory, or
- 3) wear it around your neck with an included lanyard.

At the touch of a single button, you can record crystal clear VGA quality video files in standard AVI format at a resolution of 640 x 480. Video and Audio files are saved to the unit's internal Flash memory (2 GB). A slot for optional Micro SD Card memory is also included (up to 8 GB). Total storage capacity, including internal and Micro SD memory, is up to seven hours. Files are easily transferred to any computer via USB connection.

Compatible with PC / Mac, there is no proprietary software required to play or transfer the video and audio files. The internal Lithium ion battery is charged via USB. There are endless uses for uCorder — lectures, events, memorable family moments, vacations and security are just a few examples.



SANSUNG ST550 – a camera with two LCD screens? the ultimate self-portrait compact...

The Samsung ST550 - or Samsung TL225 as it's known in the USA - has two LCD screens. The primary touchscreen on the back, with a smaller screen on the front may sound a little absurd, but it's actually surprising it's not happened before. How often do you see holiday goers trying to take self portraits (unsuccessfully) at an arm's length? The ST550 sets out to eliminate this problem, but it doesn't shun the rest of its performance - with a 3.5in touchscreen on the back the Samsung ST550 looks to be a real crowd pleaser.



PAULINE HANNAFORD'S
Winning photo from the
category of "Things You
Don't See Everyday";
was not available at press
time.



Here is a determined
Photographer ! →



Evolution of the
Photographer

November Winners

FIELD TRIP

- 1ST Randy Hall
- 2nd Alan Smith (tie)
- 2nd Ed Mosier (tie)

MOTION

- 1st Randy Hall
- 2nd Lynn Bieber-Weir
- 3rd Robin Pearson

THINGS YOU DON'T SEE EVERYDAY

- 1ST Pauline Hannaford
- 2nd Lynn Bieber Weir
- 3rd Ed Mosier

SUMMER CHALLENGE PORTFOLIO

- 1st Lynn Bieber Weir
- 2nd Pauline Hannaford
- 3rd Penny Marshall



"TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME" - by RANDY HALL - Field Trip



Summer Portfolio

"CANADIAN EAGLE" - by LYNN BIEBER-WEIR

PHOTOGRAPHING SNOW - by Bernard Dery

Snowy landscapes are among the trickiest situations to photograph with digital cameras. The exposure and white balance settings can easily be fooled by the bright lighting conditions. Whether the sky is overcast or the sun is shining, special care must be taken to avoid messing up the colours completely. The very bright snow acts as a second light source by reflecting sunlight shining on the ground.

The basics -

Some cameras offer a Snow or Winter setting, and this feature can be very helpful. It usually corrects the Auto white balance calculation of the camera and lowers the exposure value to avoid over-exposing the image.

The Snow mode is usually efficient and delivers more than acceptable results. However, it is not perfect, and not always available depending on the brand and model digital camera. Moreover, using this mode usually means the photographer loses control over aperture and shutter speed, limiting creativity. Luckily, there are ways to take beautiful snow pictures even without the help of a preset scene mode.

Under clouds -

If the day is cloudy as often happens in winter, the white balance is easy to set. The Cloudy setting generally available on most cameras works well in this situation and produces accurate colours.

The exposure often needs correction, however, and lowering the EV compensation by -0.7 or -1 is a good rule of thumb. To be on the safe side, using Center-weighted or even Spot metering is a good way to reduce the risks over-exposing your images, as long as the center of the frame is bright.

On sunny days -

If the sky is blue and the light is very bright, setting the white balance accurately is even more important. Most of the time the preset white balance modes cannot handle this situation, resulting in a strong blue cast in all your images. In this case, the best way to achieve a correct white balance is to use the Custom or Manual white balance mode. By simply pointing the camera to a clean patch of snow, a proper balance of colours can be set that will remain valid for your entire session.

But beware of shadows! Even on a seemingly uniform patch of snow there can be darker areas, and using them to set the white balance will produce an incorrect colour cast.

In sunlit conditions it's even more important to avoid over-exposing images. Set the exposure while framing a bright area, compensate by lowering the EV value, or use spot metering. If your camera offers a histogram, use it to make sure no part of the image is overexposed. Be careful not to under-expose so your snow looks white, not too gray.

More tips for photographing snow

1. When snow is falling, use a slow shutter speed to capture the movement of the snowflakes. This is more efficient if there is a light source in your image.
2. Use the flash to fix the movement of the snowflakes. This will improve images that could otherwise look dull or blurred.
3. If you have access to a strobe lamp, use it with a slow shutter speed to capture the movement of the snowflakes in sequence and create very interesting effects.
4. Shoot during the Golden Hours, when the sun is low on the horizon, to capture the texture and shape of the snow on what would otherwise look like a uniform field of white.
5. A trick for good composition is to include a single coloured subject in an otherwise monochrome snow landscape. This can produce very effective results.
6. Avoid shooting in sepia or black-and-white as it is easy, with these settings, to lose what little contrast your image has.
7. Remember to protect your camera from the cold.

LEICA LENS

After more than 30 years, Leica breaks its own record and introduces the world's highest-speed aspherical lens: the LEICA NOCTILUX-M 50 mm f/0.95 ASPH. It is the successor to the famous LEICA NOCTILUX-M 50 mm f/1 ASPH., which was added to the product range in 1975. Thanks to state-of-the-art optics and mechanical technologies, Leica has succeeded in achieving substantial improvements over the previous model. With nearly identical dimensions, a noticeable increase in lens speed has been achieved. The extremely shallow depth of field (DOF) at open aperture produces portraits and detailed studies of unequalled aesthetic effect. Even when just slightly stopped down, the result is outstanding image quality, comparable to the LEICA SUMMILUX-M 50 mm f/1.4 ASPH, which is considered the best standard lens ever produced. When used in available light photography, the lens exceeds the perception of the human eye. **Even the light from one candle can be sufficient for handheld photography.** A "floating element" retains high image quality even in the close-up range. Vignetting and distortion have also been visibly improved compared to the 50mm f/1.

***Fellow OP members;** As editor of this newsletter, I am always looking for submissions from members. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see or articles of interest to club members, please forward to rockin.robin@telus.net Thank you, Robin*

CHALLENGES FOR THE FEBRUARY 1ST MEETING

SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD & SHADOWS

FIELD TRIP

SPUNKY'S MOTORCYCLES on the Alberni highway

(date to be determined)

WEB SITE - Sent In by Susan Mohan.

100 days in Glacier National Park. We both like the goat in a snowstorm the best.

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/12/100_days_in_glacier_national_p.html

FOR SALE ! I would like to sell my old printer. It is an Epson Photo 1280, (top of the line in it's time). It needs ink, which is available in PKVL, (has only one color cartridge, therefore cheaper to run). It makes perfectly good 8 X 10's. ...for \$50 it can have a new home.
Lynn Bieber-Weir 738-0243

Next meeting will be Monday, February 1st, 2010 at 7:00 pm

At the Baptist Church behind the train station in QB.

(use the main entrance in front up the stairs)

